

REMARKS

The amendment is fully supported by the Specification and will not require an additional search, and does not raise new issues. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at page 5, lines 15-18, of the specification. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and the requested changes made. No new matter is added by this amendment.

An amended version of claim 1 is attached for the Examiner's convenience pursuant to new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii).

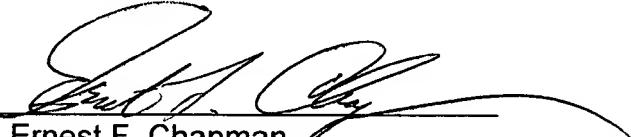
The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this preliminary amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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Reg. No. 25,961

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EFC/FPD/crw
Enclosures

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APPENDIX TO THE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A non-asbestos friction material comprising:

- a fibrous reinforcement;
- a friction modifier;
- a binder; and
- a soluble amorphous substance mixed as friction material components, wherein the soluble amorphous substance is a composition composed of SiO₂ as a principal component, 18 to 40 wt% of at least one kind of CaO and MgO, less than 10 wt% of at least one kind of Al₂O₃ and ZrO₂, and less than 2 wt% of at least one kind of Na₂O, K₂O, FeO, [and] Fe₂O₃ and BaO.

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